

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM
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A042 Cascades Frog *Rana cascadae*
Family: Ranidae Order: Anura Class: Amphibia

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

In California, the cascades frog is found in two locations, namely Siskiyou Co. and further south near Lassen Peak. Its elevational range extends from 230 m (750 ft) to 2500 m (8200 ft) (Jennings and Hayes 1994). This species can be found in water and surrounding vegetation in mountain lakes, small streams, and ponds in meadows up to timber line. It is closely restricted to water (Dumas 1966, Stebbins 1985). Individuals are active during late spring and summer (Briggs and Storm 1970, Altig and Dumas 1971).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: No specific data on feeding. This species likely feeds on aquatic and semi-aquatic insects and other arthropods.

Cover: This species hibernates in the mud on the bottom of lakes and ponds during the winter.

Reproduction: Eggs are deposited in shallow water of stream pools, lake margins, and clear mountain ponds with silty, sandy or gravelly substrates. Females prefer to lay eggs at sites with low or patchy aquatic vegetation cover (Wright and Wright 1949, Stebbins 1954, 1985, Wiens 1972, Briggs 1987). Reproduction typically occurs in waters lacking predatory fish (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

Water: Standing water is required for reproduction (see habitat requirements above).

Pattern: This species is found primarily in montane aquatic habitats during warm, moist periods.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Primarily diurnal, individuals bask on water-covered rocks. Active during the warm periods of late spring and summer. Individuals hibernate on the bottom of lakes or ponds during the winter (Briggs and Storm 1970).

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No information available.

Home Range: No information.

Territory: No information.

Reproduction: Breeding occurs from late May to mid-August, but may be as early as March if the ambient temperature is sufficiently warm (Briggs and Storm 1970). Females lay up to 425 eggs, which hatch in 8 to 20 days. Larvae require 3 months to complete development and metamorphose by late August and early September. Individuals reach sexual maturity in

3+ years (Wright and Wright 1949, Briggs and Storm 1970).

Niche: Probable predators on adults are owls, jays, black bears, raccoons, minks, and coyotes. Robins have been observed preying on tadpoles of this species. Adults cannibalize newly metamorphosed frogs (Briggs and Storm 1970).

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